Increase in export

1097. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export has shown upward trend during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items which has shown upward trend during the year and steps taken/ proposed to be taken to keep up upward trend during the coming years; and

(d) the percentage of increase compared to the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, the exports have registered a positive growth of 12.6% in US $ terms during April-November, 1999 over the same period last year. Upward trend has been noticed in the export of marine products, gems & jewellery, chemicals and allied products, engineering goods, electronic hardware, textiles, handicrafts and carpets.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation. simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

(d) As per the DGCI & S data export growth in US $ terms for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 has been estimated at 5.3%, 4.6% and 3.7% (provisional over the provisional data of 1997-98) respectively.

Development centre in Pauri Garhwal

†1098. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) wether Government have accorded approval to the development centre going to be established in Pauri Garhwal district, out of eight development centres approved for the State of Uttar Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the desired reprot has been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, by when this centre will start working; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The growth centre proposed to be set up in the district of Pauri Garhwal has not been approved so far as the State Government is yet to finalise its exact location and submit the project report

Dress code for young girls in Trade Fairs

1099. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that young girls were being used by stall owners in various fairs in vulgar and indecent manner in Pragati Maidan for attracting buyers;

(b) if so, whether any dress code is being considered in this regard;

(c) if not, whether the law relating to indecent representation of women not being flouted by doing so; and

(d) whether Government put an end to it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The organizers and their exhibitors who hold their events in Pragati Maidan employ guides, including girls for marketing their products. In case of ITPO's own fairs and exhibitions, the girl guides employed by ITPO are required to wear sarees. ITPO has not defined any dress code to be followed by exhibitors in Pragati Maidan. The Government is not aware of any complaint regarding violation of provisions relating to obscenity lodged with the competent Authority under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

News-item captioned "Now, activists going hell for leather-wearing"

1100. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindustan Times dated 16th February, 2000 captioned "Now, activists going hell for leather-wearing";